

March 19, 1973

we debated this on the floor of this legislature on General File, there was some question, as the thrust of which seemed to be that some were concerned about the inclusion of the farmsteads in this bill. I certainly did not then and do not now wish to infringe on the operation of the farmer. So we took the farmers out. We put in farmsteads, we used the definition that we thought was adequate. I was ready to let the chips fall where they may on the bill. Hearing no opposition from the REA which I think is good, I think that the REA is a great organization. I think that it is needed in Nebraska. I sometimes disagree with the paid help, particularly on this bill, but certainly we heard no opposition. We heard no opposition in the committee. We heard no opposition on General File, we heard no opposition on Select File, the opposition came on your desk the day of the vote. Completely bypassing the legislative process. Completely bypassing the legislative process and I think that it is an insult to your integrity and an insult to your judgment not to hear the facts out as we move through the legislative process. Now, when that letter appeared there was a reply drafted to it. It was at my instance that that reply was placed on your desk Friday and not this morning. I wanted you to read that reply and I wanted you to have a rebuttle if there was something wrong with that and I went a step further I called the REA office and talked directly to Mr. Wilkerson. I said that I have a copy of this letter over here and I want you to have it. You come by and pick it up, and you read it and let's get the merits of this bill out of here and let's stop talking about whether it is a trade union bill or a farm bill or whatever. This bill does one thing that is important to me. There are a large number of public facilities that are not being inspected. In the interest of safety, in the interest of protection of human lives, we had better get that job done somehow. I'll tell you one thing, if we have another tragedy like we have had in this state with fires and sometimes through electrical fires may God help your souls, because it is going to be your problem, it is going to be your problem because you said because this bill the way we have it set up isn't right. The way that we are spending these funds, isn't right. I don't like the type of inspector that we had. He is either union or he is non union. Well frankly I don't give a damn what he is, I say let's get those buildings inspected now. Some have suggested let's get the job done correctly. Well let's get it done correctly. I'm here waiting for it. I'm saying to you that if you are going to vote on this vote, on simply on the basis of yes union, no union, yes REA, no REA, certainly I don't think that you are accepting your responsibilities to look at the merits of the bill, particularly in view of the number one obligation of government and that is protection of human lives. Mr. Chairman, I resent the method used in this legislative process, I certainly resent the idea that we vote pro or con by union groups or non-union groups, or farm groups or urban groups. This bill is needed and maybe it is not the best one, and I'll be the first in line to help clean it up when we get an opportunity. I believe because of the method used in trying to defeat this bill that certainly it deserves reconsideration. Mr. Chairman and members of this body I urge you to reconsider your action on LB231.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Richard Lewis, then Senator Proud, the Senator.....Senator Lewis.